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spirit and substance of the invention may occur to persons skilled in the art, the invention should be construed to include everything within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereof--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all of the claims presently in the application and substitute new Claims 18-34 as follows:

-- 18. An expansion lance assembly for an expansion of a hollow profile by the exertion of a fluidic high internal pressure comprising:

2
a rod-shaped seal carrier detachably connected to a carrier holder and having a seal arrangement including at least two sealing rings ⁷ each having an outside diameter which is larger than an inside diameter of the hollow profile and at least one ⁸ spacer sleeve ⁹ situated between the at least two sealing rings and arranged on the seal carrier, the seal carrier having an axial inflow bore connected to a fluid high-pressure source and at least one transverse bore branching off from the axial inflow bore and the seal arrangement having an axial end support situated remote from the carrier holder;

wherein each of the sealing rings includes a first component and a second component;

the first component including a low-abrasion high-pressure-resistant elastomer ring ¹⁹ which bears against a circumferential surface of the seal carrier such that it is elastically deformable axially by high internal pressure from the pressure source,

the second component including a high-pressure-resistant supporting ring ²⁸ which is radially elastic and axially has a high tensile strength,

wherein the elastomer ring includes, on a side facing away from a nearest transverse bore, a peripheral shoulder ²⁷ on which the supporting ring ²⁸ is mounted, the peripheral shoulder being enclosed by the supporting ring, and the seal carrier and an axial stop being arranged on the peripheral shoulder.

19. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the elastomer ring includes a hydrolysis-resistant thermoplastic polyurethane elastomer.

20. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the supporting ring includes one of a linear aromatic polymer and a polyoxymethylene thermoplastic.

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21. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the axial stop is formed by a spacer sleeve which is arranged with a snug fit on the seal carrier.

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22. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the spacer sleeve is axially supported on a side facing away from the sealing ring against a positioning stop axially fixed on the seal carrier.

23. The expansion lance according to Claim 22, wherein the positioning stop includes two ring halves which are accommodated in an annular groove of the seal carrier and form a full ring, the two ring halves protruding radially out from the annular groove and being held together at their circumference by an elastomeric ring.

24. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the elastomer ring includes a peripheral sealing lip which protrudes radially outwardly from an outer circumference of the elastomer ring and includes a larger outside diameter than the inside diameter of the hollow profile to be expanded.

25. The expansion lance according to Claim 24, wherein the radially outwardly protruding sealing lips of two sealing rings are inclined towards each other.

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26. The expansion lance according to Claim 24, wherein the sealing lip of a trailing sealing ring of two sealing rings relative to a pushing-in direction of the expansion lance, includes on a side of the sealing ring ahead of it a peripherally chamfered radially outward-facing bevel.

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27. The expansion lance according to Claim 24, wherein the elastomer ring has on a side facing away from the supporting ring a circumferential ² groove, which is open in an axial direction and the upper flank of which forms an underside of the sealing lip.

28. The expansion lance according to Claim 27, wherein the groove is between 2 and 2.3 mm deep.

29. The expansion lance according to Claim 27, wherein the groove is of a notch-shaped form, and a groove base is rounded.

30. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the elastomer ring has a peripheral sealing lip which protrudes radially inwards from an inner circumference of the elastomer ring and bears against the seal carrier with a prestress.

31. The expansion lance according to Claim 30, wherein the radially inwardly protruding sealing lips of two sealing rings are inclined towards each other.

32. The expansion lance according to Claim 30, wherein the sealing lip of a trailing sealing ring of two sealing rings relative to a pushing-in direction of the expansion lance, includes on a side of the sealing ring ahead of it, a peripherally chamfered radially inward-facing bevel.

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33. The expansion lance according to Claim 30, wherein a flexible stripping ring, which has a greater diameter than the inside diameter of the hollow profile, is attached onto the seal carrier, ahead of the sealing arrangement relative to a pushing-in direction of the expansion lance.

34. The expansion lance according to Claim 18, wherein the seal carrier includes a hardened and tempered steel.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the new Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate page for the original Abstract presently in the application.

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the English translation of the specification and claims before examination of the application in the U.S. National Phase is respectfully requested.